

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR (Sverdlovsk Oblast)

REPORT

SUBJECT Steel-Tubing Factory near Sverdlovsk

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REFERENCES

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This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. The Jechow Steel-Tubing Factory is located in a woods about 45 km. northwest of Sverdlovsk (N 56-50, E 60-38), and about five km. west of the Sverdlovsk-Kirovgrad (N 57-27, E 60-03) railroad. (See sketch on p.3.) A branch rail line runs from this railroad to the factory. The factory was built after the war in August 1952, was under construction. Production started in the spring of 1953, but the factory was still not completed in the fall.
2. The factory produces seamless steel tubes with diameters up to eight cm. They are used as races for ball bearings for tractors and tanks of various unknown types. The plant also produces ball bearings varying in width from two to six cm. Actual output is unknown but it fluctuates greatly. Raw materials arrive by rail from unknown origins. Three or four freight trains of twelve to fifteen cars each arrive weekly with raw material. These trains take away the finished products to unknown destinations.
3. The director of the factory is Molchanov (fnu), an engineer. There are 2,500 to 3,000 workers, including PWs and convicts, working in two shifts. A large proportion of the Soviet workers are convicts.
4. The factory is enclosed by a barbed wire fence about two and a half meters high. All buildings are made of stone and have flat roofs. There are no watchtowers, but 25 MVD factory guards act as sentries at the entrance from the road and at the point where the railroad enters the factory. The sentries are relieved at 1300 hours. The guards come from a settlement located about 500 meters west of the factory.

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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1. [redacted] Comment: Jechow [redacted]
[redacted] could be Yekhov or Yezhov. No factory with a similar name, or engaged in this type of production, has been identified at the location given. Pipe mills have been reported, however, in Pervouralsk, which is approximately the same distance northwest of Sverdlovsk but near a different railroad. Also, there is a Yezhova (N 56-29, E 58-06) in Sverdlovsk Oblast, but it is not at the location specified nor is there any record of the production mentioned in this report in that place.

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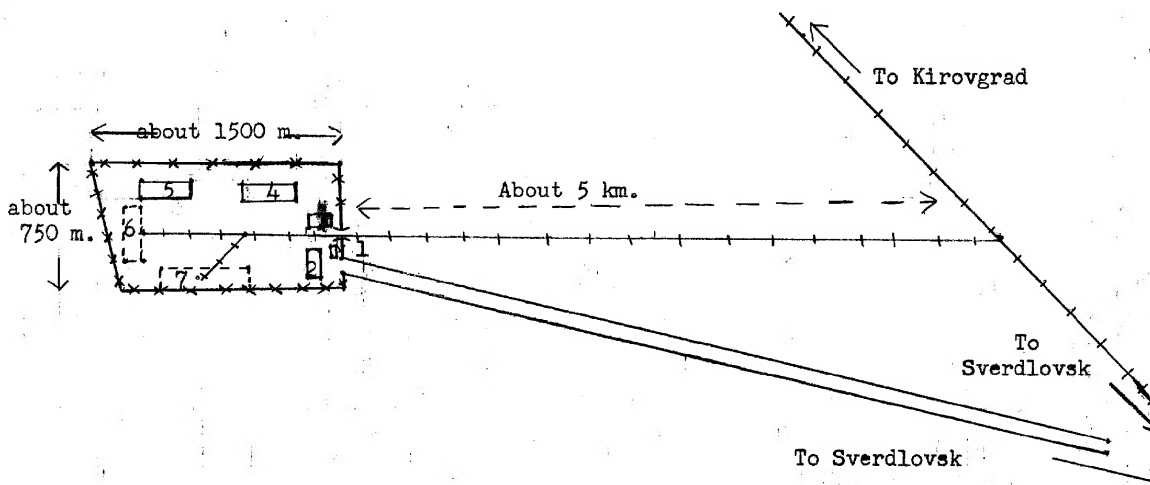
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Key to Lay-Out Sketch of Factory

1. Guard building.
2. Administration building with two stories. The ground floor is occupied by factory administration and the first floor by the design and planning offices.
3. Electric power station. The building houses boilers and power generators. The factory was not connected with the long-distance electric grid. Just north of this building was a dump with about 2,000 tons of hard coal.
- 4&5. Halls, 350 x 80 m. each, with travelling cranes overhead. Steel tubes were made here and worked up into races for ball bearings. No details about machinery are known.
6. Hall, of same dimensions as 4 and 5, still under construction in the fall of 1953.
7. Store of materials; partly in sheds and partly in the open air.

Lay-Out of Jechow Factory

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